



DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

721 Capitol Mall

P. O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA

94244-2720

April 8, 2002

To: District Superintendents with Advanced Placement High Schools
High School Principals with Advanced Placement Programs
Advance Placement Coordinators

From: Joanne Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership

Subject: Fees Charged to Advanced Placement (AP) Test Fee Reimbursement Program
Beyond Legal Costs

It has come to the attention of the California Department of Education (CDE) that some schools may be charging eligible students more than \$5 for the Advanced Placement (AP) test fees. This memo is to remind all participants of the state law in which authority and funds have been made available for the AP Fee Reimbursement Program. The enabling legislation (AB 2216, Escutia, Chapter 793 of the Statutes of 1998) was established to remove the financial barriers that prevent many low-income students in comprehensive high schools from taking the AP end of course test.

As stated in AB 2216:

“This bill would establish a 5-year pilot grant program, administered by the State Department of Education, for the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees. The bill would authorize any school district to apply to the department for grant funding based on the number of economically disadvantaged pupils in the district who would take the next offered advanced placement examinations. The bill would authorize any economically disadvantaged pupil enrolled in an advanced placement course to apply to designated school district staff for a grant. Pupils receiving grants would be required to pay \$5 of the examination fee. The bill would revise the definition of economically disadvantaged pupil.”

The charging of fees other than what is stated in the law is unacceptable and contrary to the law and legislative intent. We hope these incidents of overcharging are isolated cases of misunderstanding. State law also requires that schools must advise all students and parents of the availability of the AP programs and subsidies. We have invested

April 8, 2002
Page 2

substantial resources to promote educational equity for all students. Therefore, it is necessary to take immediate steps to ensure that no eligible student is charged more than \$5.

Thank you for your support in this important initiative to promote wider student access and success in the most rigorous courses. If you have any questions regarding this issue please contact Eva Schrepel at (916) 323-5146, or at eschrepe@cde.ca.gov.

cc: County Offices of Education
GATE Coordinators